

CF data model

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An abstract model explicitly *minimally* describing the organisation of metadata which is implied by CF 1.5.

Independent of netCDF file format or implementation in any language.

Written down in plain language, and equivalently as UML for an object-oriented implementation.

The data model is centred on a space (object). Each space exists independently.

The space may contain

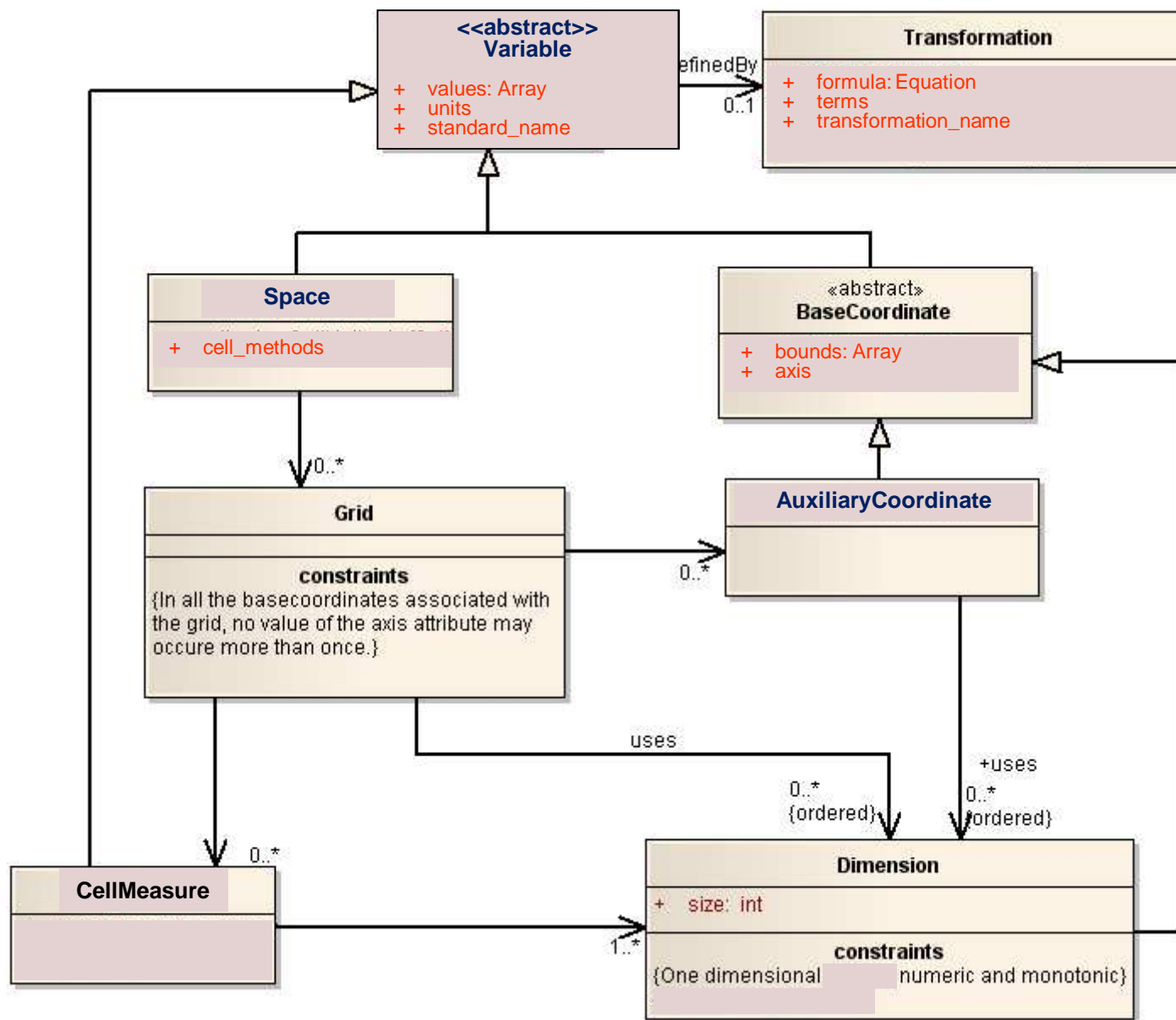
- dimension (coordinates)
- auxiliary coordinates
- cell methods
- cell measures
- transformations

The space, the coordinates and the cell measures may all contain data and properties, such as `standard_name` and units.

If the space has no data or properties, it is just a grid.

Transformations include both `formula_terms` and `grid_mapping` of CF-netCDF.

Transformations say how to calculate coordinates from other things.



We would like to propose that CF should include

- A document defining its data model.
- A document explaining how this is implemented in netCDF.
- Reference software implementation(s) of the minimal data model.